



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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Statement of Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis Commemorating The 35th Anniversary of Earth Day

WASHINGTON, DC- *Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis released the following statement commemorating the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day:*

“I have seen first hand the damage that environmental injustices bring to poor and underserved communities. Growing up in Los Angeles County, my community was plagued by bad air and industrial wasteland. In Los Angeles, 60 percent of the facilities that produce the most toxic waste are located in minority and low-income communities. My predominantly Latino district is spoiled by dozens of abandoned gas stations with leaking fuel tanks, four Superfund sites, 17 gravel pits, and one of the country’s most polluted watersheds.

“The environmental issues I focus on all have one thing in common – they directly affect our health. As a public servant, one of my goals is to make sure that our environment is protected, restored, and most importantly, safe for our families, wherever they live.

“Since he first took office in 2001, President Bush’s policies have hurt our health, worsened our air quality, and destroyed the quality of our drinking water. Worse, President Bush refuses to make polluters pay for the cleanup of these sites at all, and the cleanups that are occurring are being paid for by the taxpayers.

“The Administration’s misguided policies, like Clear Skies, will worsen our air quality, increasing asthma, bronchitis and lost days at work across the country. This policy will do nothing to help and everything to harm the over 70 percent of all Latinos and African Americans who live in counties that violate federal air pollution standards. As a result, the 35,000 cases of asthma in the San Gabriel Valley will increase, and there will be 14,000 more lost days of work and 175 more cases of bronchitis in Los Angeles County.

“As we observe Earth Day 2005, it is critical that we continue to fight to make sure future generations are healthy, their air quality is safe and they have a secure supply of drinking water.”

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